177th FIGHTER WING
JERSEY DEVILS
SAFETY AND HEALTH NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2004

Fire Prevention Week
October 3-9, 2004
"Test Your Smoke Alarms"

Prevention Week runs from October 3 through October 9, the theme for this year is

"Test Your Smoke Alarms".

Here are some tips on how to install and test your smoke detector.

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Do you have any safety related topics you would like to see in our publication or have questions, please contact the Wing Safety Office at 6013 or e-mail at Robert.Fusco@njatla.ang.af.mil

Install Smoke Alarms Correctly and Test Them Regularly

Because fire can grow and spread so quickly, having working smoke alarms in your home can mean the difference between life and death. But these life-saving devices are only effective when they're working properly. Smoke alarms with batteries that are dead, disconnected, or missing can't alert you to the dangers of smoke and fire. Follow these tips to ensure that your smoke alarms are installed correctly and tested regularly.

Once the alarm sounds, you may have as few as two minutes to escape. By learning how to effectively use the smoke alarm's early warning to get out safely, you'll reduce your risk of dying in a home fire.

The Right Way to Install Smoke Alarms

- Install smoke alarms on every level of your home, including the basement, making sure that there is an alarm outside every separate sleeping area. New homes are required to have a smoke alarm in every sleeping room and all smoke alarms must be interconnected.

- Hard-wired smoke alarms operate on your household electrical current. They can be interconnected so that every alarm sounds regardless of the fire's location. This is an advantage in early warning, because it gives occupants extra time to escape if they are in one part of the home and a fire breaks out in another part. Alarms that are hard-wired should have battery backups in case of a power outage, and should be installed by a qualified electrician.

- If you sleep with bedroom doors closed, have a qualified electrician install interconnected smoke alarms in each room so that when one alarm sounds, they all sound.
- If you, or someone in your home is deaf or hard of hearing, consider installing an alarm that combines flashing lights, vibration and/or sound.
- Mount smoke alarms high on walls or ceilings (remember, smoke rises). Ceiling mounted alarms should be installed at least four inches away from the nearest wall; wall-mounted alarms should be installed four to 12 inches away from the ceiling.
- If you have ceilings that are pitched, install the alarm near the ceiling's highest point.
- Don't install smoke alarms near windows, doors, or ducts where drafts might interfere with their operation.
- Never paint smoke alarms. Paint, stickers, or other decorations could keep the alarms from working.

A Life-Saving Test: Check Your Smoke Alarms Regularly

- Test your smoke alarms once a month, following the manufacturer's instructions.
- Replace the batteries in your smoke alarm once a year, or as soon as the alarm "chirps" warning that the battery is low. Hint: schedule battery replacements for the same day you change your clocks from daylight savings time to standard time in the fall.
- Never "borrow" a battery from a smoke alarm. Smoke alarms can't warn you of fire if their batteries are missing or have been disconnected.
- Don't disable smoke alarms even temporarily. If your smoke alarm is sounding "nuisance alarms," try relocating it farther from kitchens or bathrooms, where cooking fumes and steam can cause the alarm to sound.
- Regularly vacuuming or dusting your smoke alarms, following the manufacturer's instructions, can keep them working properly.
- Smoke alarms don't last forever. Replace yours once every 10 years. If you can't remember how old the alarm is, then it's probably time for a new one.
- Consider installing smoke alarms with "long-life" (10-year) batteries.
- Plan regular fire drills to ensure that everyone knows exactly what to do when the smoke alarm sounds. Hold a drill at night to make sure that sleeping family members awaken at the sound of the alarm. Some studies have shown that some children may not awaken to the sound of the smoke alarm. Know what your child will do before a fire occurs. http://www.nfpa.org/FPW/Planning/Safety_Tips/Escape/escape.asp
- If you are building a new home or remodeling your existing home, consider installing an automatic home fire sprinkler system. http://www.nfpa.org/FPW/Planning/Safety_Tips/Alarms/Sprinklers/sprinklers.asp
- Sprinklers and smoke alarms together cut your risk of dying in a home fire 82 percent relative to having neither – a savings of thousands of lives a year.

EMERGENCIES DIAL 911

COOLER WEATHER....

HOUSEHOLD TIPS

With the cooler weather approaching it is important that precautions are taken in your home that will help avoid exposure to carbon monoxide.
Carbon monoxide is an odorless, colorless and tasteless — yet deadly — gas. It is important to understand what causes it and how to avoid it.

Here is a list to start checking your home to ensure a safe fall and winter season:

Blocked/clogged Chimney: A chimney that is blocked or clogged due to a bird's nest, leaves, or soot causes combustion byproducts, including CO, to vent into home. Cracked masonry could also cause a blockage. Periodic inspection and cleaning by a chimney sweep helps prevent any difficulties. A screen cap for the top of the chimney to discourage nest building is also a good idea.

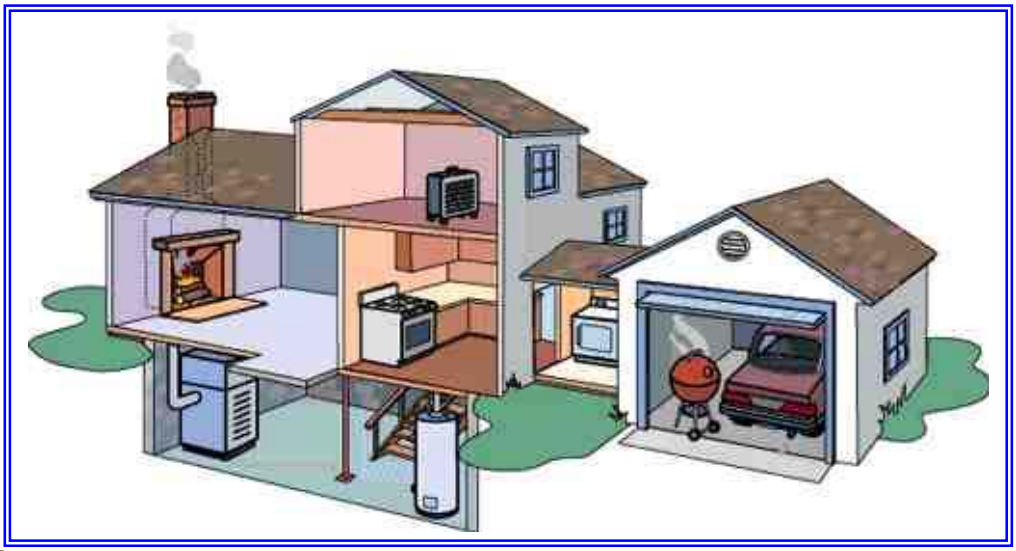
Fireplace (gas or wood burning): Wood-burning and gas powered fireplaces are a common source of carbon monoxide. Leaving the window open a few inches provides for circulation of fresh air while preventing negative pressure buildup/back drafting which can draw CO and other toxins into the home. Wood burning Fireplaces: Treated woods, painted wood, and scrap lumber should not be burned in a fireplace. Burn only seasoned firewood. Also, before you start a fire in your fireplace, make sure that the damper is open. Always leave the flue open even if the fire is almost out. Those last smoldering embers produce a high concentration of deadly CO.

Gas log sets: Gas logs or burners produce a lot of CO since the less-efficient, yellow flames are desired for a cozy atmosphere. If you own a ventless fireplaces be particularly careful as these appliances vent all combustion byproducts into the room. As the fireplace is run, oxygen is taken from the room to fuel the combustion process. As less oxygen is available, the combustion becomes less efficient and more CO is produced. Some gas log sets use a sensor that shuts down the appliance if oxygen drops to a certain level. The danger is that the appliance can be producing CO even if oxygen isn't depleted from the immediate environment. It is a good idea to look for an appliance with CO safety shut off device.

Portable Heaters Ventless space heaters are so dangerous that some states including California, Colorado, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Montana, New York, Utah and Washington prohibit their use. Some of these heaters use a sensor that shuts down the appliance if oxygen drops to a certain level. The danger is that the appliance can be producing CO even if oxygen isn't depleted from the immediate environment. Never use a heater inside a house or enclosed structure if the operating instructions tell you not to. Portable heaters and all other unvented appliances vent all the combustion products directly into the interior of the home. It is a good idea to look for appliances with CO safety shut off devices. Also, leave the window cracked a few inches to allow for circulation of fresh air if you are using a portable heater.

Kitchen Range/Stove Gas stoves and range tops are common sources of CO in a house since they are often unvented. Regular cleaning of the range top, oven cavity and burners will alleviate some of the problem. If the burners are dirty and clogged, the fuel air mixture becomes improperly adjusted causing inefficient combustion. Older appliances may have rust or damage to the burner system which may cause CO. Other conditions that could result in CO being produced are improper installation or a faulty appliance. Keep in mind that the exhaust fan that is commonly over the range top is unvented and therefore does not help dissipate CO. The fan provides filtration of grease vapor and soot generated during cooking. The best way to avoid these difficulties is to have regular maintenance done to include cleaning and adjustment of the air/fuel mixture. Also, never warm the house using your natural gas or propane oven.

Attached Garage. Probably the greatest CO danger in a residence is a running car in an attached garage, especially if the garage door is closed.



Take these precautions:

- Never warm up your car in the garage. Even if the garage door is open, a pocket of CO could form due to temperature variances. Wind can help or hinder dispersion of CO.
- Leave the overhead door open for at least a few minutes after you have pulled your car into the garage. The same precautions should be followed when using any combustion appliance including lawnmowers, snowblowers, generators, lawn tools, snow mobiles, motorcycles, etc.
- Also, garages should have outside air vents.
- Multiple car garages, as are common in apartment houses and condos, are particularly dangerous. A commercial CO detector that activates ventilation controls is recommended for use in these structures.

Grill Used Indoors Grills, barbecues and hibachis should never be used indoors, or even inside the garage or on a porch or patio. The smoldering embers of charcoal produce great amounts of CO. Always take care to grill a fair distance away from the windows of your house.

Water Heater A water heater is a potential source of carbon monoxide. The appliance may be faulty as purchased or installed improperly. Basement flooding may have caused damage to make the heater function inefficiently. A clogged burner, blocked vent or even the pilot light can produce CO. Danger signs that CO is being produced include a yellow burner flame and soot buildup. Regular maintenance to ensure air/fuel mixture is adjusted correctly and cleaning of the burner components is recommended to ensure protection from CO poisoning.

Furnace (vent, heat exchanger) A furnace produces CO because of a mechanical failure as a result of a cracked heat exchanger, flue or burner problems. Incorrect installation, damage caused by basement flooding, and pilot lights can produce CO. Also a clogged or dirty burner can affect the air/fuel mixture resulting in inefficient combustion. Yellow flames and soot accumulation are indications that the furnace needs maintenance. Frequent inspection and regular maintenance of the burner, flue, and chimney should greatly reduce any CO difficulties with this appliance.

Gas Clothes Dryer A gas clothes dryer that is purchased faulty or installed incorrectly can be a CO hazard. Damage caused by flooding and exhaust pipes clogged with lint could also cause CO to buildup. The burner can become dirty or clogged and affect the air/fuel mixture resulting in inefficient, CO-producing combustion. Frequent inspection and regular maintenance of the burner are good preventive measures. Also, clean the lint filter after every load of laundry.

Careful thought and planning may go into a child's **Halloween** costume, but the excitement of the night can cause children to forget to be careful on the streets.

Both children and adults need to give real attention to safety on this annual day of make-believe. **And with a little extra thought and planning, we can make sure that all children have fun and safe outings on Halloween.**

MOTORISTS

The National Safety Council urges motorists to be alert on Halloween and offers some driving tips:

- Watch for children darting out from between parked cars. Enter and exit driveways and alleys carefully.
- Watch for children walking on roadways, medians and curbs. If you are driving children, be sure they exit on the curb side, away from traffic.
- Do not wear your mask while driving. At twilight or later in the evening, watch for children in dark clothing.

BEFORE THEY GO OUT

- An adult will be supervising the outing for children under age 12.
- Plan and discuss the route trick-or-treaters intend to follow. Know the names of older children's companions. Children know to stop only at houses or apartment buildings that are well-lit and never to enter a stranger's home.
- A return time has been established.
- Youngsters understand not to eat any treat until you have inspected it.
- Review all appropriate trick-or-treat safety precautions, including
- pedestrian/traffic safety rules with the children.

COSTUME DESIGN

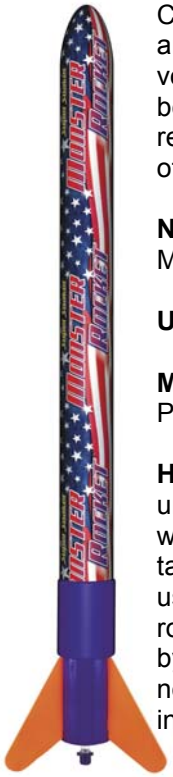
- Only fire-retardant materials should be used for costumes.
- Costumes should be loose, so warm clothes can be worn underneath. Costumes should not be so long that they are a tripping hazard. (Falls are the leading cause of unintentional injuries on Halloween.)
- Outfits should be made with light-colored materials. Strips of reflective tape should be used to make children even more visible.
- Masks can obstruct a child's vision. Facial make-up is safer and more colorful. If masks are worn, they should have nose and mouth openings and large eye holes.
- When buying special Halloween makeup, check for packages containing ingredients that are labeled "Made with U.S. Approved Color Additives," "Laboratory Tested," "Meets Federal Standards for Cosmetics," or "Non-Toxic." Follow manufacturer's instruction for application.
- Knives, swords and other accessories should be made from cardboard or flexible materials.
- Bags or sacks carried by youngsters should be light-colored or trimmed with retro-reflective tape if trick-or-treaters are allowed out after dark.
- Carrying flashlights will help children see better and be seen more clearly.

TREATS

- Give children an early meal before going out.
- Insist that treats be brought home for inspection before anything is eaten.
- Wash fruit, and slice it into small pieces.
- Report to the police anything that appears suspicious about treats. When in doubt, throw it out.

HAZARD ALERT

CPSC, Hasbro Inc. Announce Recall of Monster Rockets



WASHINGTON, D.C. - The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission announces the following recall in voluntary cooperation with the firm below. Consumers should stop using recalled products immediately unless otherwise instructed.

Name of product: Super Soaker Monster Rocket

Units: About 230,000

Manufacturer: Hasbro Inc., of Pawtucket, R.I.

Hazard: The cap on the water tank can unexpectedly and forcibly project off when it is quickly unscrewed from the tank, posing a risk of impact injuries to users or bystanders. In addition, the rocket's tail can strike a user or bystander on descent, if the rocket is not fully launched, posing a risk of injury.

Incidents/Injuries: Hasbro has received four reports of the cap being unexpectedly projected off the rocket, resulting in three injuries, including a slight concussion and a cut requiring stitches. Additionally, Hasbro has received four reports of children being struck by the descending rocket, including three cuts that required stitches.

Description: The Super Soaker Monster Rocket is composed of a 7-foot inflatable mylar rocket with a plastic and foam fin section. The rocket has a blue and orange launch base with a water pressure tank attached to one leg of the base. The tank, which has an orange cap, is connected to the pump mechanism, which launches the rocket using pressurized air and water. The water toy has the words "Monster Rocket" printed on the body of the rocket.

Sold at: Toys 'R' Us, Wal-Mart, Target, KB Toys stores and other toy retailers nationwide sold the rockets from January 2004 through August 2004 for about $30.

Manufactured in: China.

Remedy: Consumers should stop using the rockets immediately and contact Hasbro to receive a replacement product of equal value.

Consumer Contact: Consumers should contact toll-free Hasbro Inc. at (866) 487-4737 anytime or log on to the company's Web site at www.supersoaker.com

CPSC, Gruga U.S.A. Announce Recall to Repair Office Chairs Sold At Staples Stores

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission announces the following recall in voluntary cooperation with the firm below. Consumers should stop using recalled products immediately unless otherwise instructed.

Name of product: Executive Office Chairs

Units: 18,000

Manufacturer: Gruga U.S.A., dba Novimex Fashion Ltd., of City of Industry, Calif.

Hazard: The legs on the base of the chair can break, posing a risk of injury to the user.

Incidents/Injuries: None reported.

Description: The recalled executive office chairs include the 795-0115 model with black leather and the 795-0228 model with black fabric. Underneath the seat cushion the name "Novimex Fashion Ltd." can be found on the large label and the model numbers and date codes can be found on a smaller label. Only chairs with a date code prior to April 1, 2004, are included in this recall.

Sold at: Staples stores nationwide sold the chairs from March 2004 through July 2004 for about $100.

Manufactured in: China

Remedy: Consumers should stop using the chairs immediately and contact Gruga U.S.A. to receive a free replacement base repair kit.

Consumer Contact: Consumers should call Gruga U.S.A. toll-free at (888) 833-4148 between 7:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. PT or e-mail the company at customerservice@novimexfashion.com